

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 251549Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 513

INFO USUN 441

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7388

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MO, SP, SS, UNGA

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA AT UNGA

REF USUN 5924

1. WHILE OFFICIALLY BASED PRESS STORIES AND RECENT COMMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO INDICATE SOME CONCERN OVER THIRD WORLD'S INCONSISTENCY IN SIDETRACKING UN APPROVED SELF-DETERMINATION PLAN INTO ICJ, STILL POSSIBLE THAT SPANISH DELEGATION MAY BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE ICJ RESOLUTION THAT EVEN SPAIN COULD VOTE FOR. PROSPECTS FOR THIS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS FROM MADRID AS SITUATION SEEMS TO BE CHANGING RAPIDLY AT UNGA AND AS SPANISH DELEGATION UNDER DE PINIES APPARENTLY ACTING WITH CONSIDERABLE AUTONOMY. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT US DEL AT UNGA STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SPANISH DEL. IF LANGUAGE FOR RESOLUTION WORKED OUT WHICH SPANISH THEMSELVES, AS WELL AS MOROCCANS, CAN SUPPORT, THEN US COULD VOTE FOR IT. US POSITION HAS BEEN THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT SOLUTION AGREED UPON BY PARTIES CONCERNED (STATE 231150). THIS CAUTIOUS APPROACH, HOWEVER, WOULD PRECLUDE US DEL FROM TAKING POSITION EARLY IN DEBATE.

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2. ON OTHER HAND, IF SPANISH UNABLE TO WORK OUT

RESOLUTION THEY, AS WELL AS MOROCCANS, CAN VOTE FOR,
EMBASSY BELIEVES US SHOULD ABSTAIN. VOTE FOR
RESOLUTION OPPOSED OR ABSTAINED ON BY SPANISH COULD BE
INTERPRETED BY GOS AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF US
PARTIALITY. ABSTENTION WOULD BE AFFIRMATION OF US
NEUTRALITY ON SAHARA ISSUE, WHICH WE HAVE INCREASINGLY
STRESSED IN RECENT ENCOUNTERS, AND WOULD BE
CONSISTENT WITH OUR ABSTENTION ON 1973 UNGA RESOLUTION
ON SAHARA DECOLONIZATION.
RIVERO

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